

the New York State Department of the Jewish War Veterans, and with American veterans everywhere, to celebrate with pride and admiration the 100th anniversary of the Jewish War Veterans.

Formed in the post-Civil War era to help counter obstacles faced by Jewish soldiers who fought in that war, the JWV not only serves to support the concerns of the many veterans who fought for their country, but also acts as a service agency to foster social action and concern among all our citizens.

The organization has been made both dynamic and effective through a succession of dedicated and highly competent leaders. It is because of such dedicated Americans that members and supporters of the JWV will gather on the evening of Sunday, October 1, 1995, to rejoice in a century of dedication and achievement.

Allow me to briefly note the accomplishments of some outstanding New Yorkers who have proudly served as JMW national commanders.

Benjamin H. Chasin entered the service in 1942, rose to the rank of captain, and received numerous awards while serving in the Pacific theater. After many years of service in the reserves, he retired as a lieutenant colonel in 1970. Concurrently he rose through the ranks of the JWV, and served as national commander from 1957–58.

Ralph Plofsky entered the service in 1942 and saw action with the 10th and 77th Division. After his discharge in 1945, he again served his country on active duty in Korea. Discharged as a captain of the infantry in 1951, Commander Plofsky joined the White Plains Post of the JWV and in 1964 was the first Korean war veteran to be elected national commander of the JWV or any other veterans organization.

Jerome D. Cohen got his first taste of the military at age 10, when he served as a drummer in the Sons of the JWV. At 17, he enlisted in the Navy; among his many assignments was his service for 3 years as coxswain on General MacArthur's whaleboat on the U.S.S. *Nashville*. He was involved in the war in Asia, was wounded and received several citations, including the Purple Heart. After separation from the service, he began a distinguished law career. At age 22, he was elected commander of the Cohen-Lehman Post of the JWV. Demonstrating outstanding leadership abilities, he quickly rose in the JWV ranks, and in 1971 was elected national commander.

Another such distinguished commander, Nathan M. Goldberg, served in the U.S. Navy as an enlisted man and officer. He was released with the rank of ensign. He readily became active in the Albany Post of the JWV, served as its post commander and became involved in the JWV on a national level, becoming national commander in 1978. While he has served in a number of community-oriented posts in Albany, he has had major impact in his tenure as president of the National Jewish Military Museum in Washington, DC.

The distinguished past National Commander Stanley W. Zwaik served in this office from 1982–83. Initially a resident of Jamaica, NY, Commander Zwaik entered the Armed Forces in 1941 and received his commission as a second lieutenant in the military police. He was active in the South Pacific, New Guinea, and the Philippines. At the close of the war, he joined the reserves and retired in 1964 with

the rank of lieutenant colonel. It was in 1946 that he joined the JWV and soon became a county commander. As his leadership talents became widely recognized, he was elevated to a number of State and then national posts, resulting in his elevation to the post of national commander.

Edwin Goldwasser, national commander, 1986–87, first became involved with the JWV in 1961 in Spring Valley, NY. A most dynamic leader, he became post commander in 1967. He moved into active leadership positions in the JWV, first in New York State and eventually on the national level. Utilizing the prestige and impact of the JWV, Commander Goldwasser has undertaken many compassionate and humane projects on behalf of JWV causes, both in the United States and internationally. One such mission led him to the Vatican to assist in locating an Israeli MIA, Zachary Baumele.

It was to the great honor of the JWV that Vice President Albert Gore invited Past National Commander Warren S. Dolny to accompany him as part of the U.S. delegation to the ceremonies commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Commander Dolny was also honored to be invited by the White House to attend the signing of the Israel-PLO peace accords. In 1951, Warren Dolny was drafted into the Marines. After discharge with the rank of sergeant, he became a member of the Fred Hecht Post in Spring Valley, NY. His unique leadership capabilities were quickly recognized, and he was elected post commander. Rising steadily in the ranks of the JWV, Dolny filled a variety of county, State, and national posts, culminating in his election as national commander in 1992.

Mr. Speaker, all Americans can be justly proud that our country has produced such men as these commanders of the Jewish War Veterans. I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me now in paying tribute to these outstanding patriots, and in congratulating the members of the Jewish War Veterans on the 100th anniversary of this marvelous organization.

#### HONORING THE SLIFKA FAMILY

##### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 8, 1995*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, September 10, 1995, many distinguished guests will gather in New Haven, CT, for the dedication of the Joseph Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale. This center, which commemorates and celebrates the vibrant history of Jewish life at the university, was made possible in part due to the generosity and vision of the Slifka Family. As a result of their magnanimous gift and the contributions of many other individuals, the Slifka Center will be a place for contemplation, historical study, and joyful exploration of the many facets of Jewish culture.

Joseph Slifka, who passed away 3 years ago, was a deeply caring and compassionate man who devoted himself to his family, his community, and his faith. A former real estate financier in Manhattan, Joseph Slifka always gave generously of his time and resources, including donations of modern art to museums

in Jerusalem and New York. The Center for Jewish Life is a fitting tribute to a man who believed in the importance of tradition and the value of quiet reflection.

The creation of the Center for Jewish Life has, in all respects, been a labor of love, serving to knit together even more closely the Yale Jewish community. Indeed, the walls of the Slifka Center are inlaid with pieces of Jerusalem stone that have been carved with the names of those individuals whose tireless efforts helped make the center a reality. Designed and built in the spirit of inclusiveness, the Slifka Center welcomes all those who wish to explore and share their Jewish heritage. Both the Yale and New Haven communities will benefit greatly from the exciting social, cultural, religious, and educational programming that will soon be available at the center. In the words of Joseph Slifka's son, Alan, the Center for Jewish Life is "a true gift for God, for country, and for Yale." It is with great joy that I join Alan, his sister, Barbara, and his mother, Sylvia, for the ribbon-cutting ceremony this Sunday. I thank the university administration for their strong support, and the Hillel board of trustees and Rabbi James Ponet for their strong and devoted leadership. Thanks to their efforts, the dreams of individuals such as Joseph Slifka have been fulfilled.

#### TRIBUTE TO ELENA BASKIN

##### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 8, 1995*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Elena Baskin, a wonderful woman, a prominent philanthropist, and a dear friend and constituent of mine who passed away Monday morning. Her humble beginnings in Kishinev, Romania, where she was poor and often went hungry, ingrained in her the desire to share her good fortune with others. Mrs. Baskin and her husband Jack Baskin have played a prominent role in the organization and funding of services for the elderly, the poor, women, children, education, and the arts. Her acts of kindness and giving will live on in the community and in the hearts of all who knew her.

Born Elena Djatschenko on December 1, 1925, she lived without plumbing or electricity. Mrs. Baskin's parents were Russian and her father worked as a typesetter. The family moved to Chernovitz, now part of Ukraine, in 1935, where they resided until the outbreak of war in the region. They fled to Germany where Mrs. Baskin worked as a secretary with the U.S. Army in Berlin. In 1948, she immigrated to the United States and began work at Stanford University in the Hoover Library. Elena subsequently married Paul Baran and had a son, Nicholas.

She graduated from Stanford in 1960 with a master's degree and taught Russian at Gunn High School in Palo Alto when she met Jack Baskin. They were married in 1976. Mr. Baskin became a successful developer, and Mr. and Mrs. Baskin went on to share their good fortune with others.

Mr. Baskin has said that perhaps his wife's proudest accomplishment was the founding of the Live Oak Senior Center in Santa Cruz. The center opened in 1977 and serves about